

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 AID-05 SAA-01
SSM-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - AGENDA ITEM 28: DECOLONIZATION; SUB-ITEM: ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

REF: A) GENEVA 10314, B) STATE 172849, C) GENEVA 10847

1. UGANDAN CHAIRMAN OF THIRD COMMITTEE (COORDINATION) IS FLOATING THE FOLLOWING DRAFT OF A BRIEF "DECISION" ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WHICH WOULD OBLIGE A RESOLUTION ON THE SUBJECT AND WHICH HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO INTRODUCE AS A CHAIRMAN'S DRAFT PROVIDED THERE WERE AGREEMENT IN ADVANCE THAT IT WOULD BE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE COUNCIL TAKES NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (E/1978/55 AND ADD.1 TO 3), AND NOTES THAT MOST OF THE DELEGATIONS WHICH EXPRESSED THEMSELVES ON THIS SUBJECT, INDICATED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE INADEQUACY OF THE STEPS TAKEN SO FAR IN IMPLEMENTING COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION 2026 (LXI) AND 2100 (LXIII) AND URGED ALL AGENCIES, ORGANS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO TAKE, AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY, THE NECESSARY ACTION IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ABOVE RESOLUTION.

END QUOTE.

NOTE: THE PUNCTUATION IS ODD, BUT THE SUBJECT OF "AND

URGED ALL AGENCIES ETC." IS "MOST OF THE DELEGATIONS WHICH EXPRESSED THEMSELVES" AND NOT "THE COUNCIL".

2. THE CHAIRMAN'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO AVOID A CONTENTIOUS RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE ADOPTED BY THE 61ST AND 63RD ECOSOC (ON WHICH WE VOTED "NO" AND THERE WERE ELEVEN WEO ABSTENTIONS). HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED TO US THAT THIS WOULD MAKE NO CALL FOR FURTHER SECRETARIAT REPORTS ON AGENCY PERFORMANCE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE NEXT SUMMER ECOSOC AS YET ANOTHER AGENDA ITEM. HE HAS GIVEN THIS TO THE ARABS BUT DOES NOT YET HAVE THEIR REACTION, ALTHOUGH HE DETECTS A DIVISION OVER IT.

3. COMMENTS: WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT AFRAID OF ANOTHER RESOLUTION WE WOULD HAVE TO VOTE AGAINST, BUT WE DO SEE REAL ADVANTAGES IN NOT PERPETUATING THIS ITEM THROUGH A RESOLUTION -- ALBEIT THERE CAN BE NO GUARANTEE THAT THE ISSUE CAN BE KEPT OFF NEXT SUMMER'S AGENDA. THE STATEMENT IN THE DRAFT DECISION IS CORRECT AS FAR AS IT GOES, BUT IT CERTAINLY GIVES A WARPED IMPRESSION OF WHAT SOME MIGHT READ AS THE PREPONDERANT VIEWS OF THE ECOSOC MEMBERS. IN POINT OF FACT THERE WERE 14 MEMBERS AND FOUR OBSERVERS INCLUDING THE PLO (ALL BUT THREE BEING ARAB OR COMMUNIST) WHO EXPRESSED THIS VIEW MORE OR LESS, WITH THE U.S. AND ISRAELI OBSERVER OF COURSE EXPRESSING DIFFERENT VIEWS AND THE REST SILENT. WE HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOLD THE CHAIRMAN AND SOME OTHERS THAT WE LIKE THE BASIC IDEA OF A DECISION BUT THAT WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE ABOVE DRAFT SINCE IT IS MISLEADING AND SINCE WE HAVE JUST AS MUCH RIGHT TO BE "NOTED" AS THE OTHERS. (ISRAELI OBSERVER HAS RECOMMENDED TO TEL AVIV GOING ALONG WITHOUT COMMENT ON A MORE BALANCED VERSION OF A DECISION WITHOUT INSISTING ON REFERRING TO ISRAEL'S POSITION.)

4. FOR THESE REASONS WE ARE FLOATING THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE DRAFT TO THE CHAIRMAN AND SELECTED REPS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE COUNCIL TAKES NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (E/1978/55 AND ADD. 1 TO 3) AND OF THE STATEMENTS MADE BY VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF UN AGENCIES; NOTES THAT SOME OF THE MEMBER DELEGATIONS WHICH EXPRESSED THEMSELVES ON THIS SUBJECT INDICATED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE INADEQUANCY OF THE STEPS TAKEN SO FAR IN IMPLEMENTING COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2026 (LXI) AND 2100 (LXIII) AND URGED AGENCIES, ORGANS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM WHO HAVE NOT DONE SO TO TAKE, AS A

MATTER OF PRIORITY, THE NECESSARY ACTION IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ABOVE RESOLUTIONS; NOTES THAT ONE MEMBER DELEGATION, WHILE SUPPORTING THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, EXPRESSED ITS VIEWS CONCERNING THE CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH SUCH ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATES OF THE RELEVANT UN AGENCIES; AND NOTES ALSO THE STATEMENTS OF SOME OBSERVERS DELEGATIONS. END QUOTE.

WE HAVE INTENTIONALLY PHRASED OUR POSITION IN VERY GENERAL TERMS, OMITTING SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE PLO AND UNRWA, AS TO DO SO WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INVITE A REJOINDER ON THE PRO-ARAB SIDE. (DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THERE IS NO

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REFERENCE TO EITHER IN THE CHAIRMAN'S PRESENT DRAFT.)
THE LAST REFERENCE TO OBSERVERS OF COURSE INCLUDED BOTH
PRO-ARAB AND ISRAELI OBSERVERS.

5. WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT OUR CHANGE WOULD BE
ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARABS, BUT CONSIDER THIS THE MINIMUM
WE SHOULD INSIST ON. (COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND COLOMBIAN
AMBASSADOR CHARRY-SAMPER, CHAIRMAN OF THE G-77 AND THE
LATIN AMERICAN GROUP, DID INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO
ACCEPT THIS TYPE OF BALANCE.)

6. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY WE WILL PURSUE THE
ABOVE "TENTATIVE" REDRAFT.

7. CORRECTION: IN 14TH LINE OF U.S. SUGGEST REVISION
QUOTED IN PARA 4, PLEASE CHANGE "VIEWS" TO "POSITION".
VANDEN HEUVEL

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